

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 12216 201900Z

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00

SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 SCI-06 FEA-02 MC-02 AEC-11 AECE-00

DRC-01 /193 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9287

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

USMISSION GENEVA

S E C R E T PARIS 12216

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN NUCLEAR TESTING

REF: STATE 104647

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PAGE 02 PARIS 12216 201900Z

1. FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE KEYED TO QUESTIONS POSED IN

REFTEL: (A) FRANCE, PREOCCUPIED WITH ITS OWN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, HAS NOT YET REACTED OFFICIALLY TO INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST. WHILE WE DOUBT THAT FRENCH WELCOME ACCESSION OF INDIANS TO NUCLEAR CLUB, GOF WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO CONDEMN TEST IN LIGHT OF FRANCE'S NUCLEAR TESTING PROGRAM AND ITS DECISION NOT TO ADHERE TO NPT.

(B) WE DOUBT THAT GOF WILL UNDERTAKE ANY MEASURES AS SIGN OF DISPLEASURE OVER INDIAN TEST. TEST IS UNLIKELY, FOR EXAMPLE, TO PERSUADE FRENCH TO DIMINISH ITS SIZEABLE PROGRAM OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH INDIA.

(C) INDIAN TEST IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE ANY EFFECT ON FRANCE'S ATTITUDE TOWARD NPT OR OTHER DISARMAMENT ISSUES.

(D) US STANCE VIS-A-VIS INDIA WILL NOT HAVE ANY EFFECT ON FRANCE'S NUCLEAR INTENTIONS.

2. GENERAL COMMENT: FRENCH ARE LIKELY TO VIEW INDIAN NUCLEAR TESTING LARGELY AS A REGIONAL PROBLEM CONFINED TO AN AREA WHERE FRANCE'S NATIONAL INTEREST IS NOT PARAMOUNT. TREATMENT OF INDIAN TEST SO FAR IN FRENCH PRESS (LE MONDE, LE FIGARO) EMPHASIZES THAT MAJOR DANGER TO INDIA'S SECURITY NO LONGER COMES FROM CHINA OR PAKISTAN BUT RATHER FROM THE MILITARIZATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN BY "THE SUPER POWERS." GIVEN FACT THAT GOF WILL PROBABLY UNDERTAKE SERIES OF NUCLEAR TESTS IN SOUTH PACIFIC DURING SUMMER OF 1974, FRENCH (FROM TACTICAL POINT OF VIEW) MAY PRIVATELY WELCOME INDIAN TEST IN HOPE THAT IT WILL DEFLECT OPPOSITION BY COUNTRIES IN THAT AREA (AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND) TO FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING. FRENCH PROBABLY RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT FACT THAT INDIAN TEST WAS UNDERGROUND, AND AT LEAST SOME OF FRENCH TESTS THIS SUMMER ARE LIKELY TO BE IN ATMOSPHERE, WILL SEVERELY LIMIT VALUE OF INDIAN TESTING EXAMPLE IN TEMPERING CONDEMNATIONS OF FRENCH TESTS.

IRWIN

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